

In the Office Action, claims 1-13, 18 and 20 were rejected under 35 USC § 112 as failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. More specifically, it was asserted that the phrase "that amplitude" lacks antecedent basis.

Claims 1, 2, 7, 18 and 20 have been amended to refer to "first", "second", "third", "fourth", "fifth" and "sixth" amplitudes. While applicant does not concede the propriety of the rejection, it is submitted that, in any case, these amendments overcome those rejection.

Claims 14-17, 19 and 21 were rejected 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Rumbaugh et al. U.S. Patent No. 4,979,235 ("Rumbaugh").

Claims 14, 19 and 21 have been amended to change the term "first eigen-axis" to -- fast axis --, and the term "second eigen-axis" to -- slow axis --. This makes the retarder arrangement claimed in the present invention clearly different from the retarder arrangement disclosed in Rumbaugh. Moreover, it enables the present invention to subtract the retardance introduced by one retarder from the retardance introduced by another, which is not possible in the arrangement disclosed in Rumbaugh. Therefore, it is submitted that claims 14, and claims 15 - 17 dependent therefrom, 19 and 21 patentably distinguish over Rumbaugh.



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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Hon. Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231, on this 29th day of November 1993.

Dated: November 29, 1993

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Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to enter the amendments, further examine and reconsider the application, allow the remaining claims and pass this case to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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